

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. For instance, claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation of an air supply line connected to the urea water introducing part of the ammonia generating apparatus. Support for this language may be found in the present specification at, for example, page 4, lines 21-22, as well as Figures 1 and 4. New claims 3-5 are supported by the present specification at page 6, lines 1-5. New claim 6 is supported by originally filed claim 1 as well as the present specification at page 2, lines 16-17, page 4, lines 21-22, and Figures 1 and 4. New claim 7 is supported by the present specification at page, lines 16-17. Applicants have also supplied a new Abstract of the Disclosure which does not exceed 150 words and which does not use legal phraseology. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Objection to the Specification

At page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the specification. In particular, the Examiner has pointed out that the Abstract of the Disclosure should not exceed

150 words in length and should not include legal phraseology, such as "means" and "said." Applicants traverse and submit that a new Abstract of the Disclosure has been submitted herewith, which meets the requisite standards. Accordingly, this objection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

Issue under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Peter-Hoblyn et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,361,754 (hereinafter referred to as Peter-Hoblyn '754). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Peter-Hoblyn '754 discloses a system for reducing NOx emissions from an internal combustion engine. Peter-Hoblyn '754 discloses an apparatus for generating ammonia, which includes a flow passage for urea water, a heating means, and a urea water introducing part. Peter-Hoblyn '754 also discloses a helical part in Figure 2 thereof.

However, Peter-Hoblyn '754 fails to suggest or disclose an air supply line connected to the urea water introducing part as currently claimed. In fact, such an air supply line is completely absent from the disclosure of Peter-Hoblyn '754. Therefore, the present claims recite a limitation (i.e., the air supply line connected to the urea water introducing part), which

is absent from the cited reference of Peter-Hoblyn '754. To constitute anticipation, all elements of a claim must be found in one prior art source. In re Marshall, 198 USPQ 344 (CCPA 1978). Since an element of the present claims is absent from Peter-Hoblyn '754, there exists no anticipation.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are distinguished from Peter-Hoblyn '754. The Examiner is therefore requested to withdraw this rejection and allow the currently pending claims.

Request for Acknowledgement of Formal Drawings

On February 12, 2001, Applicants filed four (4) sheets of formal drawings. However, neither the Official Draftsperson, nor the Examiner has indicated whether or not the drawings are acceptable. Accordingly, Applicants hereby request that the Official Draftsperson or the Examiner confirm that the drawings of record are acceptable.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #42.874  
Michael K. Mutter, # 29,680

MKM/CAM  
1921-0130P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s): new Abstract of the Disclosure

(Rev. 02/12/2004)